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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/724,203 Confirmation No. : 9852  
Applicant : Wolfgang DANGL, et al.  
Filed : December 1, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 3612  
Examiner : J.S. MORROW  
Docket No. : 080437.52925US  
Customer No. : 23911  
Title : System for Opening and Closing a Folding Top or  
Displaceable Vehicle Roof On a Convertible Vehicle

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

**STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE**

The relevance of the reference listed on the PTO 1449 as AA to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background and Summary of the Invention in the specification of the present invention.

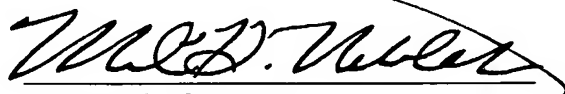
Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding International Search Report citing the documents listed on the PTO 1449 as AB and AI, together with an English translation of the International Search Report, indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

Applicant also encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding German Search Report citing the documents listed on the PTO 1449 as AA, AC-AH, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2). A check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is attached. Please charge any necessary fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 05-1323.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

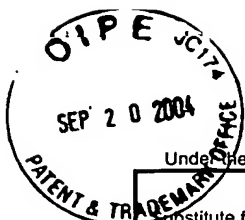
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald D. Evenson", written over a horizontal line.

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September 20, 2004

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	10/724,203
		Filing Date	December 1, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Wolfgang DANGL
		Art Unit	3612
		Examiner Name	J. S. MORROW
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	080437.52925US	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	US- 5,225,747	07-06-1993	James M. Helms et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	AB	EP 0550952	07-14-1993	ASC Incorporated		AB
	AC	DE 19701927	06-10-1998	Brose Fahrzeugteile GmbH & Co. KG		AB
	AD	DE 19845008	05-27-1999	Hoerbiger Hydraulik GmbH		AB
	AE	DE 19752535	06-10-1999	DaimlerChrysler AG		AB
	AF	DE 10051639	06-13-2001	Aisin Seiki K.K.		AB
	AG	DE 3424461	01-24-1985	Kabushiki Kaisha Tokyo Koki Seizosho		AB
	AH	DE 9412435.3	11-10-1994	Festo KG		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	AI	"Position Transducers Provide System Feedback", Technology Review, Hydraulics & Pneumatics, April 2000, XP-000937261	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.